

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 286304

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 186304

FOL TEL SENT ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS

FM STATE SEPT 18 REPEATED

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 186304

INFORM CONSULS

E.O. 11652

TAGS: CI, US, PINT

SUBJ: CHILEAN DEVELOPMENTS

1. YOU MAY DRAW UPON THE FOLLOWING IF ASKED ABOUT YOUR
IMPRESSIONS OF THE CURRENT SITUATION IN CHILE.

2. EARLY ON THE MORNING OF SEPT 11, THE CHILEAN ARMED
FORCES AND NATIONAL POLICE LAUNCHED A COUP TO DEPOSE THE
ALLENDE GOVERNMENT. THE COUP WAS INITIATED IN MAJOR PORT
CITY OF VALPARAISO, BUT THE SHARPEST FIGHTING ENSUED IN
THE CAPITOL OF SANTIAGO WHERE TROOPS BESIEGED PRESIDENTIAL
PALACE AND ALLENDE'S SUBURBAN RESIDENCE. AFTER TANK
AND AERIEL BOMBARDMENT, THE OCCUPANTS OF THE PALACE
SURRENDERED IN EARLY AFTERNOON OF SEPT. 11. SUBSEQUENTLY,
THE MILITARY ANNOUNCED THAT ALLENDE HAD DIED DURING THE
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 STATE 286304

SIEGE A SUICIDE. WHILE THERE ARE LINGERING DOUBTS ABOUT

THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF ALLENDE'S DEATH, HIS WIFE PUBLICLY EXPRESSED THE OPINION THAT IT WAS A SUICIDE.

3. ALTHOUGH SNIPING CONTINUED IN DOWNTOWN AREA FOR SEVERAL DAYS, THE FOCUS OF CIVILIAN RESISTANCE SHIFTED TO WORKER-OCCUPIED FACTORIES AND LOW-INCOME DISTRICTS. MOPPING-UP OPERATIONS ARE STILL PROCEEDING. PRO-ALLENDE ELEMENTS IN SEVERAL INSTANCES ATTACKED MILITARY INSTALLATIONS BUT REPORTEDLY WERE REPULSED WITH HEAVY LOSSES.

4. FIGHTING WAS INTENSE AND PROTRACTED IN SOME PLACES. CASUALTY ESTIMATES VARY WIDELY, BUT JUNTA PRESIDENT GENERAL PINOCHET IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT LESS THAN 100 PERSONS WERE KILLED. ONLY LIMITED SKIRMISHING HAS THUS FAR BEEN REPORTED ELSEWHERE IN COUNTRY AND THE JUNTA HAS REPEATEDLY ANNOUNCED ITS COMPLETE CONTROL. ONE WEEK AFTER THE COUP PUBLIC SERVICES ARE GETTING BACK TO SOMETHING APPROACHING NORMAL. GENERAL ATMOSPHERE SEEMS TO HAVE CALMED CONSIDERABLY. ACCORDING TO MILITARY, A FEW "POCKETS" OF RESISTANCE STILL REMAIN.

5. ON SEPT. 12, ARMY GENERAL AUGUSTO PINOCHET ASSUMED PRESIDENCY OF JUNTA AND SWORE IN AN OVERWHELMINGLY MILITARY CABINET. THE JUNTA HAS AVOWED ITS ANTI-MARXIST POSITION AND HAS PLEDGED TO PRESERVE WORKER'S SOCIAL GAINS AND RESTORE "INSTITUTIONAL NORMALITY" AND ECONOMIC LIFE. CONGRESS HAS BEEN DISSOLVED AND THE JUNTA HAS DECLARED THAT THEIR INTERVENTION WILL LAST AS LONG AS NECESSARY. CHILEAN SUPREME COURT AND THE SEVERAL NON-MARXIST PARTIES HAVE EXPRESSED VARYING SHADES OF SUPPORT FOR THE JUNTA.

6. THE MILITARY'S VIGOR IN PUTTING DOWN ARMED RESISTANCE, ITS EFFORTS TO ROUND UP PROMINENT ALLENDE SUPPORTERS, AND OTHER STATE-OF-SIEGE MEASURES, AND THE DRAMATIC CIRCUMSTANCES OF ALLENDE'S DEMISE, HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION AND IN A NUMBER OF CASES DISAPPROVAL. SOME FIFTEEN NATIONS ALREADY HAVE RECOGNIZED THE JUNTA OR OTHERWISE INDICATED THEY WILL CONTINUE RELATIONS.

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PAGE 03 STATE 286304

7. ON SEPT. 17, CUBA TOOK TO UN SECURITY COUNCIL ITS COMPLAINT THAT THE CHILEANS HAD LAUNCHED UNPROVOKED ATTACKS AGAINST ITS CHANCERY BUILDING IN SANTIAGO AND ONE OF ITS MERCHANT VESSELS. THESE ACCUSATIONS WERE JOINED TO THE ALLEGATION THAT THE US ACTIVELY CONDONED OR SUPPORTED THE COUP. THE CHILEAN REPRESENTATIVE COUNTERED BY CHARGING CUBA WITH HAVING INTERVENED IN CHILE'S

INTERNAL AFFAIRS. HE STATED THAT CUBAN EMBASSY PERSONNEL FIRED FIRST AT CHILEAN SOLDIERS REGULARLY ASSIGNED TO GUARD EMBASSY AND THAT CUBAN MERCHANT VESSEL WAS PURSUED AFTER LEAVING PORT WITHOUT PROPER CLEARANCES AND IGNORING RADIO MESSAGE TO STOP.

8. OTHER ALLEGATIONS BEING MADE AGAINST US ARE THE CHARGE OF FOREKNOWLEDGE OF THE MILITARY COUP AND FAILURE TO WARN ALLENDE GOVERNMENT OR ACTUAL COMPLICITY IN ALLENDE OVERTHROW. THESE ACCUSATIONS HAVE BEEN FUELED BY ASSERTIONS THAT PRESENCE OF US NAVAL VESSELS IN AREA ENGAGED IN ANNUAL UNITAS EXERCISE AND WASHINGTON CONSULTATION OF AMBASSADOR DAVIS JUST BEFORE COUP "PROVE" FOREKNOWLEDGE, THESE ALLEGATIONS FORMALLY MADE BY CUBANS IN SEPT. 17 UN SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING. THESE CHARGES SHOULD BE REJECTED CATEGORICALLY.

9. WITH REGARD TO SUPPOSED FOREKNOWLEDGE, THERE HAD FOR MONTHS BEEN ALMOST DAILY REPORTS OF DISRUPTIONS AND PREDICTIONS OF SOME FORM OF MILITARY INTERVENTION. THIS INFORMATION WAS, OF COURSE, REPORTED BY OUR EMBASSY. HOWEVER, WE HAD NO CERTAIN KNOWLEDGE OF SPECIFIC COUP PLANS. FURTHER, IT SEEMS CLEAR ALLENDE WAS WELL AWARE OF THESE REPORTS. IN FACT, COMMUNIST NEWSPAPER AND RADIO STATION BOTH CARRIED SEPT. 10 COMMUNIST PARTY STATEMENT WARNING OF "REACTIONARY DESIGN TO OVERTHROW CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT IN NEXT FEW DAYS."

10. US NAVY PRESENCE IN AREA, CONSISTING OF THREE DESTROYERS AND ONE SUBMARINE, HAD BEEN SCHEDULED FOR MONTHS AS PART OF THE 14TH ANNUAL JOINT ANTI-SUBMARINE WARFARE TRAINING EXERCISE WITH OTHER HEMISPHERE NAVIES
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 286304

INCLUDING CHILEAN. OUR SHIPS WERE SCHEDULED TO SAIL MORNING SEPT. 11 FROM PERUVIAN WATERS TO JOIN CHILEAN ELEMENTS FOR MANEUVERS. THE SCHEDULE WAS NOT CHANGED UNTIL AFTER NEWS REACHED WASHINGTON THAT COUP ATTEMPT WAS IN PROGRESS. A CHANGE IN SCHEDULE WAS THEN MADE IMMEDIATELY, PRECISELY TO AVOID ALLEGATIONS THAT US WAS INVOLVED.

11. AMBASSADOR DAVIS' RETURN TO US WAS IN CONNECTION WITH CONSULTATIONS WITH A NUMBER OF OTHER AMERICAN AMBASSADORS WHICH WERE PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED BY SECRETARY-DESIGNATE KISSINGER. THE AMBASSADOR RETURN TO SANTIAGO IMMEDIATELY AFTER SEEING DR. KISSINGER BECAUSE OF THE TROUBLED SITUATION IN CHILE WHICH WAS PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE. THUS, THE TIMING OF THE AMBASSADOR'S TRIP WAS NOTHING

MORE THAN COINCIDENCE.

RUSH

UNQUOTE

KISSINGER

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